



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

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## **Governor Richardson's Bold Transportation/Public Works Vision Honored**

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) has chosen Governor Bill Richardson as “The Person of the Year for 2005” for his continued commitment and leadership to improve the state’s infrastructure.

“The New Mexico Chapter of the American Public Works Association recognizes Governor Richardson's leadership of investing in infrastructure improvements all over New Mexico,” said Kenneth W. Curtis III, President, New Mexico Chapter of APWA. “These investments in water, transportation, wastewater and energy will have daily positive impacts on all New Mexicans. They will improve our economy, environment, safety and general welfare.”

“I am honored to receive this award,” Governor Richardson said. “Everyone in the country is talking about New Mexico and what our state is doing. Not only are we building new roads and fixing highways, we are about to see the beginning of entirely new transportation systems; commuter rail and space travel. I’m proud of New Mexico organizations such as APWA for moving our state forward.”

APWA is an international educational and professional association of public agencies, private sector companies and individuals dedicated to providing high quality public works goods and services. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge.

Each year the New Mexico Chapter recognizes those who have made improvements to the public works field through education, advocacy or public awareness. The award recognizes both recent and long-term accomplishments. Often the Chapter recognizes practicing professionals, such as Transportation Secretary Rhonda Faught, a previous award winner.

In reviewing the current state of public works leadership within New Mexico, the Chapter recognized Governor Richardson's many initiatives that invest in basic infrastructure. APWA cited the following projects and initiatives actively lead by Governor Richardson in selecting him for the Person of the Year Award:

- Commitment to work with legislature to provide \$100 million over three years to provide for runways, roads, power lines, launch pads and a weather station at the Spaceport.
- Leadership in promoting renewable forms of energy.
- Working with the U.S. Commerce Secretary to resolve tariff issues restricting the importing of Mexican cement into the United States.
- Development of Governor's Water Innovation Fund, which has awarded a total of \$13.2 million to projects.
- Commitment of \$3 million to extend trails along the Bosque in Valencia, Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties